

of the threshing-floor, flogging them with their heavy whips. My *zaptieTis* complain of the necessity they are under of beating the people. They say (and I think correctly) that they can never know whether a man has a hoard of buried money or not without beating him. They tell me also that they know that half the peasants have nothing to pay their taxes with, but that unless they beat them to "get what they can out of them" they would be punished themselves for neglect of duty.

On the plains to the west and north-west of the lake of Van, where the deep, almost subsoil, ploughing and carefully-constructed irrigation channels testify to the industry of a thrifty population, great depredations are even now being committed, and though later the intense cold and tremendous depths of snow of the jirmenian highlands will proclaim the "Truce of God," the Kurds are still on the alert. N"or are their outrages confined to small localities, neither are they the result of "peculiar local circumstances/" but from the Persian frontier near Urmi, along a more or less travelled road of several hundred miles, there is, generally speaking, no security for life, traffic, or property, and I hear on good authority that on the other side of Erzerum, even up to the Eussian frontier, things are if possible worse.

I have myself seen enough to convince me that in the main the statements of the people represent accurately enough the present reign of terror in Armenia, and that a state of matters nearly approaching

anarchy is now
existing in the *vilayet* of Erzerum. There is
no security
at all for the lives and property of Christians,
law is being
violated daily, and almost with perfect
impunity, and
peaceable and industrious subjects of the
Porte, taxed
to an extent which should secure them
complete pro-
tection, are plundered without redress.
Their feeble
complaints are ignored, or are treated as
evidence of